

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6082
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
DAMAGE TO COCONUT TREES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large-scale damage has been caused to coconut trees in Kerala, Andhara Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu due to mite infestation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to control the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The incidence of mite in coconut which was first noticed in 1998 in Kerala spread to other States, viz. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhara Pradesh and Pondicherry. The infestation has been recently reported in Orissa and Maharashtra. The State-wise estimated number of coconut trees infested by the mite is as under:

State No. of coconut palms infested (In lakhs)

Kerala	589.00
Karnataka	185.00
Tamil Nadu	211.96
Andhara Pradesh	48.00
Orissa	2.42
Pondicherry	1.95

(b): The steps taken by the Government to control eriophyid mite are as follows:

(i.) Coconut Development Board sponsored a research project costing Rs.3.00 lakh through Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for developing bio-agents for control of mite through biological measures. A bio-agent called 'MYCOHIT' has been developed. The Board has also released Rs.6.65 lakhs to Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore for further research on this aspect;

(ii.) Awareness campaigns / seminars / group discussions among farmers were organized by Coconut Development Board in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute and State Agricultural Universities;

(iii.) Coconut Development Board has conducted trainings for departmental staff and farmers;

(iv.) An amount of Rs.142.45 lakh has been provided under National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) for research work on coconut mite;

(v) A Steering Committee was constituted to review and coordinate efforts for developing suitable control measures on management of coconut mite. The committee has recommended holistic approach including improvement of nutrient status, use of botanical and bio-pesticides for managing mite affected coconut gardens.

(vi) Recently, an International Workshop on Management of Eriophyid Mite of Coconut was conducted by Coconut Development Board in association with Asian & Pacific Coconut Community and Government of Karnataka to assess the latest research work relating to mite and develop strategic plan for effective management of coconut mite through exchange of information and technologies among the countries of Asia and Pacific region.

(vii) The central assistance provided during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 through Coconut Development Board, to States for control of coconut mite is given below:

State	Assistance provided (Rupees in Crores)
Kerala	30.09

Karnataka 13.50
Tamil Nadu 10.54
Andhara Pradesh 3.70
Orissa 0.16
Total 57.99